



HR0559

LRB098 13556 GRL 48190 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate the
4 administration, staff, and students of Olney Central College in
5 Olney on the occasion of the college's 50th anniversary; and

6 WHEREAS, Olney Central College is a 2-year, co-educational
7 public community college operated by Illinois Eastern
8 Community Colleges District 529; Olney Central was founded in
9 1963 after a citizens' committee for education was formed by
10 the president of the East Richland Community Unit 1 Board of
11 Education; on June 13, 1962, the superintendent of public
12 instruction approved a public referendum to determine if the
13 voters of the East Richland school district supported a Class
14 II Junior College; the referendum establishing Olney Community
15 College passed 2,578 to 585 during a special election held on
16 September 15, 1962; and

17 WHEREAS, On September 3, 1963, Olney Community College
18 opened in the former Pure Oil Company building with a total
19 enrollment of 154 students; Olney Community College
20 subsequently experienced rapid growth; by the fall of 1965, the
21 college had 303 students; soon after, efforts began to make
22 Olney Community College a Class I Area College; in 1967,
23 approval was received from the Junior College Board; in April

1 of 1967, the college received Class I approval from the State
2 Board of Higher Education; and

3 WHEREAS, On September 7, 1967, the referendum for Class I
4 status for Olney Community College was approved by vote of
5 7,278 to 778; on July 1, 1968, Olney Community College
6 officially became a Class I College and was renamed Olney
7 Central College; the college then joined with Lincoln Trail
8 College and Wabash Valley College to form what would become
9 Illinois Eastern Community Colleges District 529; and

10 WHEREAS, In later years, Olney Central College grew
11 steadily; the groundbreaking for Wattleworth Hall was held on
12 December 8, 1971; in 1974, classes began in the new building; 2
13 years later, the college's gymnasium and the Dr. John D. Stull
14 Performing Arts Center were built; and

15 WHEREAS, In the course of its 50-year history, Olney
16 Central College has graduated over 18,500 students and has
17 instructed thousands of other students; and

18 WHEREAS, Olney Central College will celebrate its 50th
19 anniversary with numerous events planned throughout 2013; a
20 special "50th Anniversary Celebration" will be held on October
21 23, 2013 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of
22 the college; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we congratulate the administration, staff, and students of
4 Olney Central College on the occasion of the college's 50th
5 anniversary and wish them continued success and happiness in
6 the future; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges Board of
9 Trustees as a symbol of our esteem and respect.